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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/067,852	02/08/2002	Gordon Haas	HAAS-1	9666

7590

01/13/2005

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EXAMINER

MILLER, BENA B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/067,852

Applicant(s)

HASS GORDON

Examiner

Bena Miller

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The scope of the claim is vague and indefinite because the claim is depending from a claim that is canceled. The examiner will presume that claim 8 is a dependent of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Littlepage.

Littlepage teaches in the figures 8-10 a toy building construction set comprising a plurality of geometrically shaped thin panels (210, 212, 208), each having a soft texture (col. 2, par. 8 and col. 6, lines 9-27) and a surface of loops (col. 10, lines 21-30; It should be noted the patch located on the panels consist Velcro, which includes loops), a

Art Unit: 3714

fold-away flap integrally formed with and extending from each of the panels (214, 220, 218, 217), the fold-away flap being hingedly movable between a first position having an exposed surface (fig. 8), and a second, secure position that conceals the exposed surface (fig. 10), hook strips positioned on the exposed surface (Velcro patches 215, 221, 219, 217), one of the panels attaches to another of the panels by use of the hook strips when the flap is in the first position (fig. 10) and the flap of the one panel secures to the same panel when the flap is in the second position to create a rigid attachment therebetween (The examiner takes the position that the flap of the same panel can secure to itself and will create a rigid attachment therebetween).

Regarding claim 3, Littlepage further teaches the panels are resilient (col. 6, lines 16-27). The examiner takes the broadest reasonable interpretation of the word "resilient— 2. Capable of returning to an original shape or position, as after having been compressed. See synonyms at flexible.¹).

Regarding claim 4, Littlepage further teaches the panels are flexible (col. 6, lines 16-27).

Regarding claim 5, Littlepage further teaches the panels having an outer covering (col. 6, lines 16-27).

Regarding claim 6, Littlepage further teaches the outer covering of the panels is cloth (col. 2, par. 8 and col. 6, lines 16-27).

¹ *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Third Edition* copyright © 1992 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Electronic version licensed from INSO Corporation; further reproduction and distribution restricted in accordance with the Copyright Law of the United States. All rights reserved.

Art Unit: 3714

Regarding claim 8, the Littlepage further teaches the panel shapes are rectangles (fig.8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Littlepage in view of Mayne.

Littlepage teaches in the figures most of the elements of the claimed invention except for foam rubber panels. Mayne teaches a sculpture toy having panels that are formed from foam rubber material (col. 3, lines 34-49). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to having the use foam rubber as taught by Mayne for the panels of Littlepage for the purpose of providing sufficient support for the device to be free standing (col. 3, lines 38 and 39).

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Littlepage.

Regarding claims 9 and 10, Littlepage teaches in the figures most of the elements of the claimed invention except for the panels' width between about one-half inch and about one inch. It would have been considered a mere design choice to have the width of the panels between about one-half inch and about one inch for the purpose allowing the child to carry a smaller doll within the enclosed panels.

Art Unit: 3714

Regarding claim 11, Littlepage fails to teach the panel covers is covered by the surface of the loops. It would have been considered a mere design choice to have the panels covered by the surface of loops for the purpose of easily securing the panels in any position on the other panel.

Response to Arguments


Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bena Miller whose telephone number is 571.272.4427. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Bena Miller
Examiner
Art Unit 3714

Application/Control Number: 10/067,852

Page 6

Art Unit: 3714

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January 10,2005